



## **Lt. Governor Skillman Speaks to National CEOs at Associated Equipment Distributors Conference**

Last week, I traveled to Chicago to speak to the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) at their annual conference. This group of CEOs from across the country is critical to our economy. Their companies supply the equipment and manpower for many of the projects we need to keep our state moving forward – like the improvement and maintenance of Indiana's infrastructure.

In Indiana, we've made infrastructure a priority because it is one of the best ways to attract jobs and secure future economic growth for all our citizens. The companies that seal deals with the state for business location, expansion, and job creation regularly report that transportation infrastructure is one of the top reasons they choose Indiana.

Our state's road improvements are funded well into the future thanks to Major Moves, our 10 year, multi-billion dollar infrastructure program. Major Moves is funded with no tax increases, no borrowing, and no financial smoke and mirrors. The money came from the long-term lease of the Indiana Toll Road, and we currently have over 70% of our original projects complete or under construction. Our highways and bridges are being preserved and replaced at unprecedented levels.



*Lt. Governor Skillman accepts a gift from AED executives Bob Henderson and Toby Mack at the group's annual conference in Chicago.*

The Major Moves advantage also positioned us to make fast work of federal stimulus dollars when they came through. We were the first state in the country to completely distribute our transportation stimulus funding, because we had so many shovel-ready projects. We are funding well over 1,000 projects, at least one in each of our 92 counties. That was no small task, but we focused on both quality and quantity, worked hard, and moved money fast to contractors.

And Major Moves is also ensuring that we can build roads going forward. We created the Highway Next Generation Trust Fund, setting aside \$500 million of the proceeds from the toll road lease. That money, including the interest, is untouchable until the

early part of next year. At that point, only the interest will be transferred to the highway construction fund.

There's no way of knowing how much money we will have accrued when the first amount of interest is transferred to INDOT. But right now, the market value of the Fund is well over \$600 million. And, of course, you can lay a lot of blacktop with \$100 million.

We must maintain and modernize our infrastructure. Hoosiers depend on the business community to thrive, and the business community depends on safe, reliable, easily accessible transportation. Thankfully, we have a plan in place to protect and improve our infrastructure well into the future.

*Becky Skillman*



*Lt. Governor Skillman oversees the Indiana Department of Agriculture, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the Office of Tourism Development. For more, visit her on the web at [www.lg.in.gov](http://www.lg.in.gov).*